In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of a partially crystalline ~~polycondensate, especially a~~ polyester ~~or polyamide,~~ comprising the ~~following~~ steps of :

a) ~~Manufacture~~ continuously manufacturing ~~of~~ a polycondensate prepolymer melt;

b) ~~Formation of granulates and solidification of the polycondensate pre-polymer melt, by means of a granulation device, wherein the granulates is cut upon exit from a nozzle of the granulation device~~ passing the melt through a nozzle and cutting the melt upon exiting from the nozzle to form solidified granulates of a size smaller than 2 mm;

c) ~~Raising of the degree of crystallization of~~ treating the ~~prepolymer~~ granulates at a temperature sufficient to achieve a predetermined degree of crystallization; ~~and~~

d) ~~Raising the molecular weight of~~ subjecting the granulates ~~by means of~~ to a solid phase polycondensation to increase the molecular weight of the granulates, ~~characterized in that in the step b), granulates with a mean diameter of less than 2 mm are formed~~ and

maintaining the average temperature of the granulates in degrees Centigrade in transition from step b) to step c) above a value corresponding to 1/4 of the melting temperature Tm_{prp} in degrees Centigrade.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that in the step b), granulates with a mean diameter of ~~0.4—.7 mm~~ 0.4 to 1.7 mm ~~, especially 0.6-1.2 mm~~ are formed.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that, the polycondensate prepolymer melt is pressed through a nozzle plate with a multiplicity of nozzle holes~~, which preferably are~~ arranged on at least one annular pathway.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ cha racterized in that, the cutting in ~~the granulation~~ step b) is carried out with a circumferential knife.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, cha~~ racterized in that, the cutting in ~~the granulation~~ step b) is carried out with a ~~fluid jet, especially with a~~ liquid jet.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the polycondensate prepolymer melt is selected from the group consisting of ~~polyester involves~~ a polyethyleneterephthalate, a polybutyleneterephthalate, a polyethylenenaphthalate or one of their copolymers.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the polyester polycondensate prepolymer melt ~~involves~~ is selected from the group consisting of ~~a polyester melt, especially the melt of~~ a polyethyleneterephthalate melt ~~or one of its~~ and a

copolymer ~~copolymers~~ thereof with a degree of polymerization consistent with an IV value of 0.18 to 0.45 dl/g.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the ~~prepolymer~~ granulates upon entry into the ~~crystallization~~ step c) have a crystallinity of less than 10%.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that ~~the crystallization~~ step c) is carried out in one of a fluid bed ~~or~~ and a fluidized bed reactor with the action of a fluidizing gas.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that in ~~the granulation~~ step b) a liquid is used for ~~the~~ cutting the melt ~~, which is mostly~~ and is separated from the ~~prepolymer~~ granulates, ~~before they are~~ granulates prior to the granulates being fed to ~~the crystallization~~ step c).

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein a water jet is used to cut the melt upon exiting from the nozzle to form the solidified granulates. ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that water is used as liquid.~~

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the polycondensate melt is ~~involves~~ a copolymer of polyethyleneterephthalate, wherein a ~~the~~ dicarboxylic acid

component comprises more than 94 mol % or less than 84 mol % ethyleneglycol.

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the polycondensate melt is ~~involves~~ a copolymer of polyethyleneterephthalate, wherein a ~~the~~ diol component comprises more than 98 mol % ethyleneglycol.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the polycondensate melt is ~~involves~~ a copolymer of polyethyleneterephthalate, wherein a ~~the~~ dicarboxylic acid component comprises 98 mol % to 99 mol % terephthalic acid.

16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that ~~simultaneously with the crystallization step c) heat up to a suitable temperature for solid phase polycondensation takes place.~~ step b) and step c) occur simultaneously.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that ~~porous granulates are produced, into which preferably in step a) and/or step b),~~ a foaming agent is added to the polymer melt to obtain porous granulates in step b).

18. (new) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that in granulates with a mean diameter of 0.6-1.2 mm are formed in step b).

19. (new) A method for the manufacture of a partially crystalline polycondensate comprising the steps of

continuously manufacturing a polycondensate prepolymer melt;

granulating the melt to form individual solidified granulates of a size smaller than 2 mm;

treating the g ranulates at a temperature sufficient to achieve a predetermined degree of crystallization and maintaining the average temperature of the granulates in degrees Centigrade above a value corresponding to 1/4 of the melting temperature Tm_{prp} in degrees Centigrade; and

subjecting the granulates to a solid phase polycondensation to increase the molecular weight of the granulates.